

Locals Trail League Leaders by But 1-2 Games; Win 3 Last 4

Stellar Fielding and Power At Bat Feature Games In Recent Days

Winning three of their last four games, Art Hauger's Martins are now only 1-2 games out of first place in Coastal Plain League play, and the trend is decidedly upward, while their close competitors are in for a few setbacks that always come under the old law of averages.

Stellar fielding and power at the bat, as well as some superb pitching, have featured the past several games played by the Martins, the exhibitions rating as among the best of the season. Earp at short and Lakatos as second have been doing some splendid work in their positions, while Deim is holding his own at third despite an injured wrist. Ace Villepique, with his starring in the field and regaining his batting eye, has just about forgotten about that bad ankle injury. The half-way mark of the season, now at hand, finds Bill Sharkey still working hard behind the bat, and the other lads are very much in the fight as the season progresses.

Biggie pitched a 5-hit game for the Martins over in New Bern last Friday to feature the 5-1 win. He batted in two runs to add to that feat. Villepique and McCay led at bat with two hits each.

The 2-1 win over Ayden on the local grounds last Saturday proved there is real baseball in these Coastal fields. Wade held the visitors to 7 hits, and his teammates played a superior brand of ball to give him air-tight support. Until the seventh inning, the visitors were leading with their lone run, which was getting bigger all the time. Stanley opened home half of the seventh with his second single of the day; Stevens sacrificed and McCay singled, Stanley stopping at third. Arthur "Pappy" Deim batted in Stanley but was out at first on the play. Lakatos, after starring afield, doubled to bat in the winning run.

The Martins suffered a reverse in Ayden by a 1-run margin Sunday, the Aces winning 3 to 2. Fields started for the Martins and allowed only 8 hits in 6 innings, 3 of them coming in the sixth to score 2 runs. Biggie completed the work, a walk, a sacrifice hit and a single giving the Aces the winning run in the seventh.

After trailing Kinston here yesterday afternoon until the ninth, the Martins, led by Earp, started a rally that netted two runs and gave them the contest by a 3-2 county. In the ninth, Earp doubled, Villepique laid down a bunt and beat it out; Stanley hit a bouncer and the play was made at the plate, Earp counting when the catcher dropped the throw. Stevens then singled to bat in the winning run and end the game. Rollins held the visitors to 6 hits, one of them a homer by Gillenwater. Kinston finished its scoring in the third when Vick drew a walk and scored on an out by Schulte after Dirmann doubled. Villepique led the hitters with a double and two singles; Earp and Lakatos had a pair of doubles each and Stevens two singles. Stevens' hits came at the right time, his first bingle accounting for the first run and his second breaking up the game. McCay's single in the fourth marked the 10th consecutive game in which he had collected at least one hit.

Skipper Hauger showed up in the play yesterday for the first time when he took Sharkey's turn at bat in the eighth with two out and two on. He was purposely walked, but died on first when Gadd took Rollins' drive near the left-field fence. Wade went behind the bat in the last frame and ended the visitor's chances with a whoop when he caught Gillenwater stealing second for the third out.

Infant Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dies in Hospital

The seven-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Thomas, of near Williamston, died in a Washington hospital this morning at 8 o'clock from colitis. He had been in the hospital for treatment during only a short time.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed at noon today.

Prominent County Citizen Dies Near Robersonville

Geo. W. Keel, prominent Martin County citizen, died at his home in Robersonville Township, yesterday afternoon following a long illness. He was 65 years old.

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the late home by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister. Burial was in the family cemetery on the home farm.

Local Business Is Likely To Observe Monday as Holiday

While definite plans have not been completed, Williamston business firms are considering observing next Monday as a holiday. The Fourth of July falls on Sunday, and the following day is recognized as an official holiday by the Federal government. Last year the Fourth fell on Saturday, and local business houses remained open that day and closed the following Monday. The general opinion is that all local business firms will close for the day Monday, but definite action in this connection has not been taken at this time.

The county board of commissioners and the Williamston town commissioners will postpone their meetings from Monday to Tuesday. The post office will close and no deliveries will be made either in the rural sections or in the town, and the banks will close for the day, regardless of the action the other business firms take toward suspending operations for the day.

To Take Applications For Benefits Thursday

RAINFALL

Scattered showers continue to fall in this section almost daily, leaving some communities too wet for the operation of plows and leaving other still dry. Heavy rains were reported all around Williamston over the past week-end, but hardly more than 2-3 of an inch of precipitation was reported here during the period. The weather station on Roanoke River reported .36 of an inch Saturday and .32 of an inch Sunday night. One of the heaviest rains in years was reported near Oak City Sunday night, and other surrounding communities had heavy falls about the same time.

Congressman Kerr Introduces Bill for Survey of Roanoke

Proposal To Effect Flood Control and To Aid Navigation

No official cost figures were released, but a considerable sum will be spent on the improvement of the Roanoke River if a bill introduced in the House of Representatives a few days ago by Congressman John H. Kerr, is enacted into law.

The bill is based on a regional development similar to the TVA, and the survey proposed by Kerr is to be advanced from the standpoint of navigation, reclamation of farm lands and the elimination of flood hazards.

In introducing the measure, the Congressman said:

"I have today introduced two bills which provide for a comparative study of the Roanoke and Neuse Rivers and their tributaries as they affect navigation, reclamation of farm lands, development of power and a study of the economical and social aspect of the areas surrounding these rivers.

"There have been previous surveys dealing largely with dredging for improving navigation, but this is a broader approach and contemplates a comparative inventory of all the resources in these areas. I hope that because the nation has become more reclamation conscious and with advanced thinking along these lines, that much more can be accomplished. I especially hope to enlist the support of members of Congress and interested parties well up in Virginia of the Roanoke River improvement. This improvement has been the cherished hope of this section for many years. My idea is to have this great waterway, it being the most important on the South Atlantic Appalachian slope, incorporated in the national planning for waterways program.

"There are thousands and thousands of acres of the richest bottom lands in Halifax, Northampton, Bertie and Martin Counties that were prior to the Civil War diked at private expense, and much of these lands still are in cultivation, but under very precarious circumstances. If these bills are enacted, this element of danger will be removed, and cultivation can continue without the hazard of destruction of crops by floods.

"On account of the tremendous increase in barging commerce, if navigation is resumed as far as Weldon on the Roanoke it will see a new life given to this waterborne traffic which will not only result in providing navigation improvement, but will add several dollars per acre to the stumpage price on timber in this valley and adjacent areas."

1,000 Applications Expected, With 700 To Be Disappointed

Big Rush Certain As Old And Young Enter Bids For Assistance

Everybody will be coming to town next Thursday, when the Martin County Welfare office holds open house for dependent children, the aged and the blind. The first applications for assistance under the social security act will be received by the welfare department in the welfare offices on the second floor of the courthouse that day and each day thereafter.

Preliminary estimates offered by the welfare department indicate that at least 80 persons over 65 years of age, 72 dependent children, and 8 blind people will qualify for assistance under the program. But nearer 1,000 applications for assistance are expected, and that means that there are going to be around 700 persons, more or less, disappointed when the final showdown in the first round of the business is over.

Every person over 65 years of age has the right to file an application for assistance, but every person over 65 years of age who has any property, or who has transferred any property within the past two years is not eligible and will not share in the program. Every person over 65 years of age who has relatives able to care for them will not get any aid. It is understood that some old-timers have recently transferred property in order that they might qualify for assistance, but if that transfer was made within the past two years, they'll find it just about useless to file an application now.

Dependent children really have to be dependent before they can qualify for aid, and they must be under 16 years of age, too. Any motherless or fatherless child who is now living with relatives well able to care for them will hardly receive consideration under the social security program, it is understood.

Briefly stated, the old-age assistance feature of the social security program is designed to give aid to those who need aid, and not to those who expect to get something for nothing when they are not entitled to it.

The welfare staff will receive applications and in those cases where the applicants are deemed not entitled to aid, rejection notices will be given before the applicant leaves the offices. All other applications will be turned over to the county welfare board for consideration after investigations are made by the welfare department forces. There are methods of appeal when applicants are refused aid.

Infant Son of Mr. and Mrs. Williams Dies in Hospital

The ten-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Williams, of Cross Roads Township, this county, died in a Washington hospital late Sunday night from colitis. He was entered in the hospital for treatment last Friday.

Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry. Interment was in the Ayers cemetery in Cross Roads Township.

Seek Pardon for Howard Griffin, Young White Man

A petition is being circulated here today for the parole of Howard Griffin, young county white man, sentenced to the roads for two years in Superior court here last March for alleged forgery. The petition carries the names of a goodly number of citizens.

Two Men Hurt, One Critically, in Wreck Near Here Sunday

Young Mt. Gilead Man In Hospital With Broken Back and Paralyzed

Alexander Andrews, 21 years old, of Mount Gilead, suffered a broken back, skull fracture, a broken collar bone and other injuries, and Barton H. Owens, of Roseboro, suffered a back injury and lacerations about the face and head Sunday morning at 11:35 o'clock, when their car, a Packard sedan, crashed into an electric light pole and turned over in front of the radio station near here, on Highway 64. J. F. Blue, 21 years old, of Parkton, driver of the car, escaped with only minor injuries.

Andrews, who was removed to a Washington hospital, is expected to recover, although his condition was described as critical. He was paralyzed from the waist down, hospital doctors stating that only careful handling of the young man from the scene of the accident to the hospital prevented his death.

Owens was removed to his home in Sampson County late Sunday night in an ambulance.

Blue and his cousin, Alexander Andrews, were on their way from Parkton to Plymouth, and Owens was their hitch-hiking guest. Blue started to pass a car just opposite the highway patrol radio station, and the left wheels ran off the concrete and dropped about 6 inches to the dirt shoulder. The car was said to have been traveling around 50 miles an hour, and when he tried to drive it back onto the road, the machine went out of control and skidded into the electric light pole, tearing down the pole, two transformers and high-powered lines before crashing into a large pile of building tile and stopping about 30 feet away in a ditch. Andrews was thrown out and fell under the car when it came to a stop.

Patrolman W. S. Hunt, who was at the station and saw the accident, stated that he could not understand how any of the three escaped with their lives. First-aid attention was given within a few minutes at the direction of Patrolman Hunt and others.

The car, driven only about 4,600 miles and virtually new, was wrecked beyond repair.

New Laboratory To Increase Benefits Of State Health Service

Will Enable Department To Produce Two New Kinds Whooping Cough Serum

"Expanded service to North Carolina citizens will be extended upon the completion of the new laboratory of the State Board of Health in Raleigh," it was pointed out by Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, state health officer, a few days ago.

"The mere erection of a new building, handsome though it will be, will by no means tell the whole story. The underlying purpose will be service, demonstrated by the production of immunizing and neutralizing agencies used in preventing and combating disease and consequently, minimizing suffering.

"We will be able," Dr. Reynolds went on, "to produce two new kinds of whooping cough vaccine, known as Sauer's and Kruger's. The former contains eight or ten freshly isolated strains of the pertussis bacilli, and each cubic centimeter contains ten thousand million organisms. An immunizing treatment comprises some eight or ten cubic centimeters. In Sauer's, the organisms are killed by heat, and the vaccine contains some of the by-products of the growth of the organism.

"Kruger's, instead of containing the whole pertussis bacilli," Dr. Reynolds continued, "is treated by being ground up in a ball mill, and the fluid is passed through a filterer to exclude any organisms that have not been destroyed in the grinding process. This is essentially an extract of living.

"We will also be able to produce here in our own laboratory, vaccine to prevent measles. This has been available for several years, but we have not been in a position to produce it. In fact, it is not now prepared in this State for distribution.

"Anti-pneumococcus serum for the treatment of lobar pneumonia also will be prepared in this new plant. This has proved very successful in the handling of this disease, formerly fatal to such an extensive degree. In addition, we will be able to furnish media, reagents, etc., to smaller laboratories

County Commissioners End Five-Day Review of Property Values With Number Increases Ordered

Avalanche of Cotton Blooms Gives Promise of Early Crop

The Martin County cotton crop came into bloom last Friday and Saturday, dozens of farmers bringing red and white blossoms here to establish the fact that the current crop is possibly the earliest in several years.

Farmer George Jenkins brought in the first two last Friday from the Garrett farm, near Williamston. Other farmers were certain that they had some even earlier than those, but they just did not find them until later. Asa Ward, farmer living near here, brought in blossoms yesterday, explaining that they were found last Saturday, and that possibly they had been open for a day or two when found.

Weather conditions in this immediate section have been considered very favorable to the crop, most farmers stating they have good stands and that the cotton is growing rapidly.

Farmer Bob Everett from up Palmyra way, brought in several blossoms last Saturday that John Hardy, his tenant, found the Tuesday before.

Mrs. Raymond Harrison and Hugh Bennett and George Keel found cotton blossoms last Friday. Willie Lassiter brought in a blossom from Mr. Joe Cherry's farm yesterday, and numbers of others reported plenty of blossoms.

Way Left Open for Further Study When Adjudged Necessary

Five Per Cent Horizontal Increase on Cleared Land Ordered in Hamilton

Ending a five-day review of tax values in Martin County, the commissioners, sitting as a board of equalization and review, quit their work last Friday after effecting a number of changes and ordering a 5 per cent horizontal increase in the listings of all cleared land in Hamilton Township. That the job was not completed, the commissioners will admit, and they are leaving the work open for further consideration, if necessary. It is possible that the authorities will investigate other listings, but it is believed that they will not grant reductions in those instances where the values were increased over the figures placed on the books by the list-takers and the boards of assessors.

Those owners whose property values were increased are to be notified by mail of the changes, the authorities explaining that the individual changes will not be made available to the public just now. Probably when the values are definitely set up, the minutes of the five-day meeting will be released to the public.

During the five-day review, the commissioners increased values in nine townships by \$26,000, and at the same time allowed reductions in the amount of \$9,000, making a total gain of \$17,000. It could not be learned definitely, but it is believed that most of the \$26,000 gain is traceable to homes and business properties in the several towns.

Finding cleared land in Hamilton listed at an average of \$32 an acre, the commissioners are said to have effected some adjustments and then proposed a 10 per cent horizontal increase. A compromise was advanced, and the 5 per cent increase was adopted, the increase not to apply on listings of any property other than cleared land. The \$32 average compared with about a \$40 average for the county, it was pointed out, and the increase does not bring cleared land listings in Hamilton hardly up to the county average, it is believed. Hamilton Township extends from Edgecombe County on the west to the Roanoke on the east and south almost to Williamston. There is some poor land in some sections of the district, but on the other hand there is some valuable land in there, the board finding few instances, where the cleared acreage value exceeded \$32.

A review of the listings in Griffins showed some pains taking work was done there by the list-taker and assessors. A fellow with good land is paying taxes based on a \$45 acreage valuation. The man with medium land is to pay on a lower valuation, and so on. In several districts, little attention was paid the various land classifications, and naturally the 1937 tax values are not in perfect accord with what is and what is not.

Civil Service Examination For Position in Office Here

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for the position of substitute clerk-carrier, for filling vacancy in the post office at Williamston.

Applications for this position must be on file with the manager, Fourth U. S. Civil Service District, Washington, D. C., not later than July 17.

Full information and application blanks may be obtained from the secretary of the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners at the post office in Williamston.

Mother and Son Continue In Jail in Default of Bond

Unable to raise bonds aggregating \$7,500, Mrs. Jesse Ben Roberson and her 18-year-old son, George Ben Roberson, remain in the Martin County jail where they await trial in the Martin Superior Court next September for an alleged assault with intent to kill their husband-father a week ago last night.

Probable cause was found and the bonds, \$5,000 for the boy and \$2,500 for the mother, were fixed by Justice C. M. Hurst at a preliminary hearing held last Friday morning.

Damage Suit Started By Special Officer Is Settled Out of Court

Bootlegging Activities Are Expected To Cost Man Around \$1,100

The \$2,000 damage suit brought in the Martin County Superior Court last week by Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck against Eddie Burnett has been settled out of court it was learned today. The defendant is said to have paid the officer \$300 in full settlement of the case, in which the plaintiff was asking \$1,000 actual and \$1,000 punitive damages.

Burnett, wanted for violating the liquor laws, resisted arrest when the officer attempted to arrest him in a woods in Goose Nest Township on May 28. Mr. Roebuck suffered bruises on his hands, and his life was threatened. Burnett, after evading arrest for several days, surrendered and pleaded guilty in the county court last week. He was fined \$500 and taxed with the cost, reports stating that the account has been settled and that Burnett, a colored man of about 60 years of age, is cured.

Joe Gainer, aiding Burnett to gain his freedom and interfering with the officer while in the performance of his duty, also surrendered and faced trial in the county court yesterday. He was fined \$200 and taxed with the cost. Gainer alleged that Burnett had asked his aid if the officer found hidden liquor on the Burnett premises, that he followed Burnett and the officer into the woods and aided the escape at Burnett's request.

It was rumored that Burnett, a successful farmer of Goose Nest, would pay Gainer's fine and case cost. If he accepts this added expense, Burnett will have paid approximately \$1,100 and that is some toll illegal liquor exacts.

Packhouse Burns Near Oak City

Fired by a bolt of lightning at 9:30 o'clock last Sunday evening, the packhouse and most of its contents were burned on the farm of Mr. J. B. Whitfield three miles west of Oak City. Implements, stored under the packhouse shelter, were saved, but 4 tons of hay and other feed and quantities of nitrate of soda and land plaster were destroyed. Mr. Whitfield estimated the loss at approximately \$1,000, with only \$210 insurance.

A second bolt of lightning struck a tree in the Whitfield yard, Mr. Whitfield stating that had it not been for the heavy rain accompanying the electrical storm other near-by buildings would have been burned. The rain was described as the heaviest falling in that section in many years.

Lightning was reported to have struck in Cross Roads that night, destroying about a quarter of an acre of cotton on the Coburn farm next to Herbert Roebuck's.

Special Supper at Cedar Branch Church Friday

A benefit ice cream supper will be held at the Cedar Branch Baptist church, near Jamesville, Friday evening of this week at 8 o'clock, the benefits to go to the church. Ice cream, cake and pies will be served, and a quilt will be awarded.

Slade-Rhodes Store In Hamilton Robbed Last Friday Night

Williamston Colored Man Held in County Jail for Investigation

Breaking into the store of Slade, Rhodes & Company in Hamilton sometime during the early part of last Friday night, robbers stole around \$85 in cash and 25 or 30 cartons of cigarettes. No other articles were stolen, it was learned. The store operators had an arrangement to draw oil through a small opening in the back of the building from a barrel. The robbers removed the barrel and crawled through the hole.

J. D. Wiggins, Williamston colored man, was arrested Saturday night and is being held for investigation in connection with the case. He is said to have sold some cigarettes Saturday. Jake Edwards, Williamston colored man, is believed implicated in the robbery, but he has not been apprehended, officers stating that they believe Edwards is hiding in a near-by town. Two colored men were seen on the Hamilton-Williamston road about 11 o'clock on the night of the robbery. One carried a peanut sack almost filled with something. The other approached a resident along the way and asked passage to Williamston, but was refused. Wiggins' identity could not be established when the man was carried before him in the county jail Monday, officers believing that Edwards was the one who tried to arrange a ride home.

Colored School at Gold Point Burned

The four-room colored school building at Gold Point was destroyed by fire last week, reports reaching here indicating that the fire was of incendiary origin. The building was insured for \$850 with the Farmers Mutual Company. According to unofficial information received here, the building was in bad repair, and its value was hardly more than \$1,000. It was pointed out, however, that approximately \$3,000 or \$3,500 would be necessary to replace the structure.

A new building for Gold Point was given consideration the early part of this month by the board of education. Making an investigation on the grounds, the board members decided to repair and add to the old building. Apparently the plans advanced did not meet with the approval of all the patrons who cleared the site for a new building or none.

Walter Holberstadt Hears Case as U. S. Commissioner

Garfield Williams, colored man arrested in Bertie County a few days ago by Federal officers for alleged operation of an illicit liquor still, was given his freedom following a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner Walter Holberstadt at the commissioner's Church Street home here last Friday. Williams was arrested on meager evidence, and the commissioner released him.

It was Mr. Holberstadt's first case since he was appointed U. S. Commissioner by Judge Meekins some time ago.